

Biscayne Gardens Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting
May 20, 2004 - 7:00 P.M.

MAC members: Anne Cates
Vernell Everett
Roger Gordon
Michelle McCook
Patrinia Dozier-Washington
Ann Zimmerman

On May 20, 2004 the first meeting of the Biscayne Gardens Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) was held at the Biscayne Gardens Elementary Community School. With approximately 100 residents in attendance, the meeting began with the introduction of the MAC members by Robert Kirschbaum, Budget Analyst with Miami-Dade County. He is assigned to assist the MAC with the information gathering process for annexation /incorporation. Commissioner Dorrin Rolle appointed MAC members. An Election of the MAC officers was then conducted. The nominees are Vernell Everett, Chair, Roger Gordon, Vice Chair and Michelle McCook, Recording Secretary.

Assistant County Attorney Craig Collar who is also assigned to handle annexation /incorporation for the County Attorneys Office was on hand to explain The Florida Sunshine Law. He explained that since MAC members are no longer private citizens, they must understand the Florida Sunshine Law. Some key points that were highlighted: discussion of any item that may come before the MAC between two members of the same MAC are limited to published public meetings only. All information received by the members of the MAC is public record. MAC members are allowed to discuss matters pertaining to annexation/incorporation with members of the public in person or via phone conversations.

Mr. Kirschbaum announced that the MAC meetings are published every Monday in the local section of the Miami Herald. The public can also stay involved with the process through the Biscayne Gardens Civic Association. Meetings are held at the civic center located at 15000 N. Miami Avenue, 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. **He then explained that the purpose of the MAC was not to incorporate Biscayne Gardens. The primary purpose of the MAC was to investigate incorporation/annexation by looking at the facts, the numbers and services provided by the County. Based on the information and numbers gathered by the committee, a determination can then be made whether or not Biscayne Gardens should proceed with the process of incorporation. The issue will then be decided by a majority of registered voters.**

Overall, the first meeting was informative and lively. Next meeting is scheduled on June 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., Biscayne Gardens Elementary School, 560 N.W. 151 Street. The third meeting is scheduled on July 8th, same time and location.